



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 9, 2007

H.R. 1254 **Presidential Library Donation Reform Act of 2007**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
on March 8, 2007*

H.R. 1254 would require any organization that raises funds for a Presidential library to disclose the sources and amounts of such funds. The legislation would apply to donations totaling \$200 or greater per quarter while the current President is in office and during the period before the federal government takes possession of the library (with a minimum reporting period of four years after a President's term). Additionally, H.R. 1254 would require fund-raising organizations to provide this information to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the Congress. The bill would direct NARA to make this information public in a free searchable database. Finally, H.R. 1254 would establish criminal penalties, including fines, for violations of its provisions.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1254 would cost \$1 million in 2008 and about \$5 million over the 2008-2012 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the legislation could affect direct spending and receipts, but we estimate that any impact would not be significant.

Based on information from NARA, CBO estimates that requiring NARA to create an online searchable database of Presidential library donations would have an initial startup cost of \$1 million. In addition, CBO estimates that NARA would need \$800,000 annually to update and maintain the database after it is established. Thus, we estimate that the creation of a single comprehensive searchable database for library donations would cost about \$5 million over the 2008-2012 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

H.R. 1254 would establish a new federal crime for violations of its provisions. CBO expects that H.R. 1254 would apply to a very small number of offenders; any increase in costs for law enforcement, court proceedings, or prison operations would not be significant. Any such costs would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Because those prosecuted and convicted under H.R. 1254 could be subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the legislation is enacted. Collections

of such fines are recorded in the budget as revenues, which are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and later spent. CBO expects that any additional receipts and direct spending would be negligible because of the small number of cases involved.

H.R. 1254 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 1254 would impose a private-sector mandate, as defined by UMRA, on organizations established for the purpose of raising funds for a Presidential library. The bill would require those organizations to submit quarterly reports to the Administration and certain Congressional committees detailing the sources and amounts of certain contributions it receives. The reports would have to be submitted for a period of time as determined by conditions in the bill. The cost for such organizations to report the mandated information would be minimal. CBO estimates, therefore, that the direct cost of the mandate would fall well below the annual threshold established by UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$131 million in 2007, adjusted annually for inflation).

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Matthew Pickford (for federal costs) and Paige Piper/Bach (for the private-sector impact). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.